

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1
INCIDENT NO. 2003-029
DATE: March 30, 2003 Time 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Potential Dam Failure – On March 29th, 2003, Cavalier County officials reported that Mount Carmel Dam in Cavalier County has a high potential for total structural failure. The Mount Carmel Dam/Reservoir is a major water source for the City of Langdon and the Langdon Rural Water District. Failure of the Dam would jeopardize that supply. It is unlikely that vandalism has been involved. The State Water Commission will form an engineering team to evaluate the situation.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported in North Dakota.
DAMAGES: Mount Carmel Dam on the South Pembina River has a 25-foot wide gap at the base of the dam. Water is flowing under the spillway causing internal erosion.
3. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Agencies providing assistance from Cavalier and Pembina Counties include the following: county commissions, emergency management departments, emergency medical services, water board members, highway departments, sheriff's departments, communication departments, Langdon Rural Water as well as city fire and public works departments and local contractors and volunteers.

STATE: Agencies involved include the State Water Commission, the N.D. Department of Transportation, the N.D. Highway Patrol, the N.D. Department of Health, State Radio Communications, the N.D. National Guard, N.D. Civil Air Patrol, and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management and the Office of the Governor.

FEDERAL: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Weather Service and FEMA Region VIII have been alerted.

VOLUNTEER ACTION: American Red Cross and other local volunteers.

MAJOR ACTIONS: Cavalier and Pembina county officials alerted local and state officials of the high potential for total failure of the Mount Carmel Dam. At this time, local officials indicate that a 2-3 month drinking water supply is available for Langdon and Langdon Rural Water District if the dam fails.

City and County officials assessed the situation and asked for the voluntary evacuation of two families. Flood fight equipment and supplies were staged in Walhalla. A contractor familiar with the dam was brought to the scene. Potentially impacted area roads and crossings were closed and information and warnings were provided to the public by local officials.

State Radio Communications and local dispatch centers have managed the call volume and assisted DEM in contacting various officials.

The State Water Commission and State Emergency Management have dispatched personnel to the site to provide technical assistance to local officials. They are studying possible actions that may be taken to save the structure. They are also calculating downstream effects should the dam fail. The City of Langdon and the Langdon Rural Water District water supply options are also being studied.

The Civil Air Patrol provided an aircraft to transport and provide aerial dam reconnaissance for the State Water Commission and DEM officials.

ND Department of Transportation has placed its Grand Forks District on alert. The ND DOT can provide pumps and transport tankers to transfer raw water to the Langdon Water Treatment Plant if needed.

The National Weather Service has issued a Flash Flood Warning and a weather forecast and a downstream hydrology analysis.

The North Dakota Department of Health is providing technical assistance regarding the City of Langdon and Langdon Rural Water District water supply.

4. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance has been requested.
5. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: State Water Commission, N.D. Highway Patrol, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management are providing technical assistance to local officials.
6. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director